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c.

Sr.

From your well known attachment to the Interest of your Country, and your being the Senior General in the State to which we have the happiness to belong, we are induced to address you on a Subject not only of the most serious Importance and lasting consequence to the Army; but as we conceive, of great weight to the Country at large — Indeed the Idea of being under the necessity of recapitulating Grievances is truly painfull and distressing: But the necessity is real and indispensible. While we view the rapid progress of those Measures which tend not only to the Destruction of the Army, as a Body: but the utter ruin of the Individuals who compose it, we should be lost to every Sense of Virtue, Honor, Justice, Humanity & Patriotism to be silent —

You cannot be insensible, Sir, of the Terms upon which the Troops of our State engaged in the present Army, Terms the most distant from any Degree of Parsimony and replete with the most generous Emolument —

The Resolves of Court of the 1st. November 1776 are perhaps the most generous and Liberal to be produced on the Continent; Having the public faith thus pledged to us, well might we suppose ourselves and Families secure from the Evils attendant on even a vastly depreciated Currency: But unhappy for us, we speak it with Pain and reluctance, the salutary effects of their Bounty have never reached us — the Liberal diffusive Streames of the State Generosity with which we have been amused have never been opened to us, or at best have flowed in so scanty and feeble a Manner as hardly to be perceptible: and at those Moments when the most adequate Supplies have been expected, our hopes have been defeated, and we have found ourselves immersed in Disappointment and want.

Had —

had public Promises been fulfilled to a tittle, the Depreciation of the Money alone would have afforded ample foundation — This must have been a Burden of itself almost insupportable, but both Evils who could bear? What could more readily and effectually awake our Resentment than to hear from our dearest Connexions at home, that the Necessaries of Life were monopolized and withheld, their Currency refused and despised, their distressed Situation ridiculed, and they suffering every Evil incident to the meanest Slaves, and most abject Dependents: What can Men engaged in the service of their Country promise themselves for a Virtuous perseverence in its Defence when Instances of Neglect and Ingratitude are daily exhibited towards them — Can it possibly be right in the Eyes of that God, to whom America has appealed for the Rectitude of her Intentions and the Justice of her Cause, to reward those who have stepped forth for the Defence of the Rights of Mankind, with abuse, poverty and Rags — or is it possible any Man ever attached to the Interest of his Country should be thus dead to every sentiment of Justice and Propriety — forbid it Virtue, Honor and every virtuous principle of the human heart —

We find, Sir, in answer to the present Complaints of the Army that frequent mention is made of the Resolve of the Court of the 4th of February last, by which the Money is to be made good at the close of the present War, and certain Sums granted for the present Relief of the Army. However good this Resolve might have been in itself it must be very apparent to every one that the benevolent purposes of it have been Defeated in one Instance by the rapid Depreciation of the Currency from the Date of the Resolve to the Time the Sums granted became payable: This disagreable Circumstance prevented us from experiencing that Relief from the last we at that Time expected —

PW1669(1)

Brethren so on the other Hand it has been and still is our unalterable Determination never to be depressed below them —

Common Honesty dictates that Men who leaving their private concerns devoting their time to the service of their Country like all other Servants should be supported — The Question then Sir what that support should be — we think it clear, it ought to be such as to preserve ourselves and Families from Distress and Want, and render each Officer in proportion to his Rank capable of discharging his Duty with Reputation to himself and advantage to his Country —

We very readily acknowledge the Adequacy of our Pay with the other promised Emoluments at the time of our Contract with the public for the purpose of our support; But our Emoluments have been so small and the real Value of the Sums we receive for our Pay so perfectly trifling, we think it a direct affront upon the common Understanding of any Man should we attempt to prove their utter Insufficiency even for the sole purpose of our personal subsistence in the Field; Was this a necessary Consequence of our Inability in the Country we might bear it patiently in Silence, but when we see our Countrymen almost universally bathing themselves in the Sunshine of Affluence Wealth and Plenty not even denying themselves the Luxuries of Life, we must certainly be divested of the Sentiments of Men of Spirit and the feelings of Human Nature not to murmur — the more as we conceive this to be one of the great Sources from which our present Evils have originated — If we may judge, Sir from the General Conduct of Men we shall be justified in the Suspicion that a Neglect and Inattention will soon take place in our fellow Citizens in General towards their Brethren in the Field —

RW669(2)

With regard to the Money being made good at the close of the present War we would observe, Sir, that Period indeterminate uncertain and perhaps at a distance that if we could even subsist without it, we conceive we should be wanting to ourselves to risque it upon so precarious a footing: But this is not the Case, we cannot subsist without a part of it, not to mention many obvious Reasons the possibility of artfull designing Men gaining ground and wresting the meaning of Laws to answer the purposes of Interest and Ambition ought to put us upon our Guard and make us insist upon the Matter's being precisely fixed and indubitably sure. our Pay, Sir, is our property and the Moment it becomes due we can demand it as matter of Right —

If this be true it must be unjust to deprive of it, against our Consent. We would ask what Men there are in the State who have trusted the public upon similar Terms with the Army — Upon examination we believe there will be found none — Sureties have been ever given where Money was concerned —

You must be sensible, Sir, those who engaged in the present War, did it under every disadvantage, they put every thing to the Hazzard. Had the Country fallen they of all Men must have been the most miserable, the fury of a relentless Conquerer would have been wreaked with double Vengeance upon them — however this Consideration has not been sufficient to deter them from the Glorious pursuit, despising and resolutely encountering Difficulties they have been so happy as to prove themselves superior to both —

The Idea of raising ourselves above our fellow Citizens at Home has been of all others the most distant from our Minds — as we have embarked on the same Bottom with them — our only wish has been to rise or fall with them, and as on the one hand we never entertained the Idea of exalting ourselves above our

and relieve us from the present Anxiety, can it be thought unreasonable to suggest that such Sums might be immediately granted as shall be necessary to relieve the present Exigences of each Officer according to his Rank, and that such Sums may be continued from time to time so long as the State of the Currency shall render it necessary; and the Sums so granted to be charged to the Account of each Officer respectively

Unless something of this kind takes place we must confess, Sir, it appears not at all difficult to determine the Consequence, the many and daily Resignations of Officers most clearly point it out

In Justice to noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers who are unmarried we must think them entitled to something annually or oftener, than barely the nominal Sum to which their Pay amounts, and cannot but wish as they are the Flower of the Army that some consideration may be made them for their faithful Services, and further incouragement in the Service of their Country

Next to the immediate Relief of the Army we would propose, Sir, that at least by the first day of January next an Adjustment be made of the Accounts of each Officer and Soldier and that Security be given by the State for such Sums as shall be found due on such Adjustments and that in future an Annual Settlement be made by a Committee from the Honorable Court, which shall confer with a Committee from the several Regiments and the Adjustments of those Committees shall be laid before the House for Approbation, and when approved by them Securities given for such Sums as shall be found due

In order to prevent the Officers from being under the Necessity of Leaving Camp for the purpose

RW669(3)

But does the public good require that we should be marked out for special Ruin— Is this the Price for which the Liberties and Independence of America are to be purchased— We please ourselves it is not— We conceive that Life Health Property and Reputation too, perhaps are too great Sacrifices to be made by any one Class of Men whatever— does Reason Justice or Patriotism require it— does it accord with that Patriotick and disinterested Spirit— That mutual regard and warm attachment to each others Interest which so richly distinguished America from the rest of the World at the Commencement of her late Revolution—

In vain Sir, do we look for that Sympathy for the distressed, that Regard to Justice and enthusiastic Love of Liberty which at the begining of this War prospered and fired every feeling Breast— And with as little effect do we seek that determined Spirit of Resolution which gave Energy Force and permanence to every public Measure— Notwithstanding what may be said of Individuals, the People at large and the present disagreable Aspect, we can assure you of our full Confidence in the Wisdom Justice and public Spirit of the supreme Legislature of the State and we doubt not that upon an impartial view of our suffering Situation suitable Means will be adopted for our Relief, at least we presage this from what has already been done and their Native regard to Justice and Equity—

And here, Sir, we beg leave to question the possibility of supplying the wants of the Army till a more liberal Taxation takes place than has hitherto been adopted— We conceive that the Value of the Money will be inhanced nearly in proportion to the Quantity taken out of Circulation and at the same Time that it increases the Finances of the State it renders the Situation of the Army more easy, however we are sensible this must be a Work of Time. Wherefore to remedy the Evils we now feel,

Bounties and encouragement given them for inlisting for the War after the Expiration of their present Term as those who are now out of the Service We consider the Arguments in favor of this to be powerfull and the probability of Succes in recruiting promising, and doubt not should the Encouragement be extended to them the greater part, if not the whole of this Class of Men would immediately engage.

We apprehend Sir, should this take place it would be highly necessary that some suitable Person be appointed as Commissary of Musters either for the whole, or one for each Brigade, who should muster the recruited Men, and whose Certificate of their having passed Muster together with that of the Col.o or Commanding Officer of the Regiment into which they shall inlist shall be sufficient to draw a Warrent from Council for their Bounty, in the same way we propose all new Recruits from the Country be Mustered— We would beg leave further to observe, Sir, that we think it would greatly tend to the well being of the Regiments and Satisfaction of the Court to have some Person appointed by that Honorable Body to correspond with the Officers of the Army as they shall think proper; by which the Circumstances Wants &c. of the Army may be fully known to the Court, and the Prospect of Supplies &c. known to the Army We are led to believe this would have a happy Tendency to prevent many Complaints Uneasinesses and Jealousies which may take place both in the Army and Court.

Painfull as the task may be of complaining of the Expense Vexation loss of time and Delay

RW469(4)

408.c

of procuring for themselves Cloathing, and the Soldiers from the dangerous necessity of being without Shoes, Hose and Shirts, a considerable part of the Year which has ever been the case/ we think it highly reasonable, and necessary that the former be furnished, with a suit of Cloaths Compleat; and the latter two Shirts, two pair of Hose and four pair of Shoes annually and be charged to their respective Accounts and settled at the Annual Adjustment.

With Regard to the Sums to be advanced we conceive, Sir, that this in a great Measure depends on the Resolve of Court of November 1st 1776 in which Ample Supplies of certain necessaries were engaged to us, and on which we engaged being impartially and liberally complied with.

We would remark here for the comfort convenience and Health of the Army the absolute Necessity of a liberal Supply of the Articles innumerated in the Resolve as without them we are confined to the use of Animal Food at all times, the ill consequences of which have been no oftener lamented than felt in the production of putrid, Billious, and other dangerous and mortal Disorders.

We would observe also that Tea by Experience is found to be much cheaper than Coffee as this Point is of great Moment to the State we flatter ourselves it will gain the particular attention of of the Honorable Assembly.

As we think it our Duty to point out whatever to appears us calculated to promote the Reputation and good of the State and as Recruits are now inlisting; we take the Liberty to ask what possible Objections can be given against those Men who are now engaged for three years Only/ and whose times will expire with the present Year/ having the same

408.1

Which have attended our frequent applications for supplies granted by Court, yet we are compelled to the Measure as the whole of the Articles in some Instances would scarcely defray the necessary Expences arising from such attendance of Individuals, we complain not without a Cause, the Facts are well known to every one, all we wish is a Remedy —

We are constrained also to mention the Neglect of some Agents in not forwarding the State Donations as early as was the Intention of Court, by which Means (and the State Commissaries not having Shirts, Shoes and Hose to sell them) the Soldiers have often been disheartned and rendered unfit for Duty —

Hugh Lander August 7th 1779

Jnº Bagley Col.
Jonª Gratton Col.
Rufus Putnam Col.
Mich. Jackson Col.
Thomas Marshal Col.
} Committee

Desire genuine Signatures
Can be obtained

The Hon.ble Major Genl. Heath —

Treadwell

May 17. 1901

(W669(5) MS.408